

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Miss. Baptists back from tsunami area

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

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The first team of Mississippi Baptist disaster relief volunteers to work in tsunami-ravaged southeast Asia has returned to Mississippi after nearly two weeks of medical assistance, feeding victims, and training local residents on the continued use of the mobile kitchen they staffed.

"We had to be flexible, and ready to do anything necessary," said Don Gann, consultant in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and leader of the team.

"I believe we opened doors of good will for future teams to work in the area," Gann said. "We gave the people a true vision of what Christians are like."

As ministry to Asian tsunami survivors begins the transition from emergency relief to long-term recovery, Mississippi Baptists have given \$253,565 through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) tsunami relief fund while Southern Baptist gifts to the aid effort through the International Mission Board (IMB) have topped \$10 million.

So far, about \$2.5 million has been disbursed from the Southern Baptist fund for nearly 50 aid projects across South and Southeast Asia, ranging from food and water distribution, medical care, temporary shelter, and sanitation to providing fishing nets and reconstruction materials for villagers struggling to rebuild their lives and communities.

As emergency relief supplies begin to stack up at ports all around the area of Asia affected by the tsunami due to heavy donations and transportation problems, the most urgent need at present is monetary gifts to finance long-term efforts aimed at helping survivors rebuild their lives, say disaster relief officials on the scene.

A special relief fund has been established at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and tax deductible donations are now

being accepted. Checks should be made payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board with "tsunami relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, ATTN: Tsunami Relief, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

People who are donating to tsunami relief have been cautioned by charity experts to be sure they are donating to organizations that will utilize the money



TSUNAMI RELIEF WORKERS — Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit volunteers who recently returned from the tsunami area in southeast Asia include (from left) John Adams, member of Crossgates Church, Brandon; Dan Edney, member of First Church, Vicksburg; Don Gann, consultant in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Randy Graves, member of Wildwood Church, Clinton; Wayne Herrington, member of Highland Church, Meridian; Jerry Bishop, pastor of First Church, Lauderdale; Buddy Day, associate missions director for Tri-County Association in Columbia; and Steve Griffin, pastor of McCordy Church, Mantee. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

for the intended purpose; fully 100% of the funds donated to the MBCB special tsunami relief fund will be used in the Mississippi Baptist/Southern Baptist response to the tsunami disaster.

Mississippi Baptists who would like to volunteer to assist tsunami relief survivors through the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit should contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at the above address. Telephone: (601) 292-3334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org. Specialized training and immunizations may be required.

Mississippi Baptist gifts were used to fund the first of many teams of volunteers from the state that will be going into the tsunami-ravaged area as long-term recovery continues. The teams' work areas are not being disclosed for security reasons.

Many more Southern Baptist projects will be funded in the months to come, said Jim Brown, the mission board's specialist for world hunger and relief ministries. They will support ongoing relief as well as longer-term efforts to help ravaged communities recover and re-build. Every penny given will go to tsunami-related ministry.

"The resources we're using have come through Southern Baptists, but they've come from God," Brown said. "When it's all said and done, I'm sure we will have utilized all we've received — and then some. With a crisis of this magnitude, it may take a year. It may take two years or even longer, but it's going to give our people the opportunity for building long-term relationships" in many places once difficult to reach by outsiders.

Recovery projects after other natural disasters — such as Hurricane Mitch,

which devastated parts of Honduras in 1998 — often continue for years, Brown said. Mitch was bad, but the regional devastation wrought by the tsunami is almost incomprehensible.

"So far we've been doing emergency disaster response," said Don Dent, IMB regional leader for mission work in the Pacific Rim. "We were there early, and we were there with people who knew the language and culture, supported by volunteers who have been meeting needs. We've done feeding. We've done a lot of medical work. We've dug mass graves for villages. We've cleaned out houses so people can move back in out of the weather. We've done some building projects already. We knew the funds were there because Southern Baptists were responding immediately and generously."

In the months ahead, Dent said, work is "going to need to transition to more reconstruction and development of [local] economies, which is great because there's a lot of relationship building we can do."

Dent acknowledged there must be "10,000 volunteer teams that want to come build something," but he emphasized this is not a time to build churches — especially in majority Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist communities carefully watching what Christian volunteers do in their midst.

"It's a time to build community centers or schools or housing," he said. "We have teams booked for all the openings that we have for the next three months at least. We're hoping for long-term openings."

Baptist Press contributed to this article.

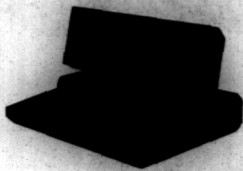


GIVING SUSTENANCE — A young girl in a tsunami displacement camp leans on her mother's arm as she has a hot breakfast of bread and chicken. Southern Baptist workers continue to assist many such survivors of the tsunami that devastated Southeast Asia. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

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Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
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BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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Money as madness

I'm actually glad the Lord hasn't given me a bunch of money," my friend said, half-jokingly, "because He knew it would drive me stark-raving mad." If current events lend proof to that observation, our society is hurtling toward the same illness.

Hardly a day goes by without news media reports of billion-dollar business frauds, widespread embezzlement, cheating, lying, stealing, and even murder in the name of financial crimes — all for the love of money. Has no one in America read the Bible warnings?

- "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless." — Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NIV).

- "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." — the words of Jesus Himself in Matthew 6:24 (NIV).

- "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." — 1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV)

- "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." — Hebrews 13:5 (NIV).

The obsession to acquire more and more wealth has apparently existed at least since Bible times, because the inspired writers were led to describe the love of money with such words and phrases as "never enough," "hate," "despise," "root of all kinds of evil," and "pierced... with many griefs." We are also admonished to be content with the amount of money we do have.

Like so many other Bible truths we have discarded in order to slake our own worldly appetites, we have come to the point of complete disregard for God's warnings about the destructiveness of money and the abuse of wealth.

The American entertainment media are constantly bombarding us with glimpses into the lifestyles of the rich and famous. We stare agog at our television screens as actresses appear at awards shows in \$500,000 gowns and million-dollar, diamond-encrusted footwear. We like to tickle our ears with stories of high-flying business tycoons trading in their old trophy wives for newer models.

We fantasize about hitting the Powerball or striking it rich at the roulette table or hearing the Prize Patrol knock on our door. We see ourselves bedecked in fabulous jewelry and driving overpriced luxury cars. We want to live in outsized houses that really amount to a waste of money and natural resources.

Sure, we need some sort of income to live. True enough, some people seem "blessed" with the ability to make money without breaking a sweat. However, if money is our only "scoreboard of life," as a successful businessman once put it, we will never be whole as individuals or as a society.

Wealth has its place. It is one of God's creations. The accumulation and expenditure of wealth can be both noble and God-serving when used in the intended manner. It's just that we humans have managed to twist it and abuse it to the point it is almost unrecognizable to its original intent — but haven't we done just about everything that way?

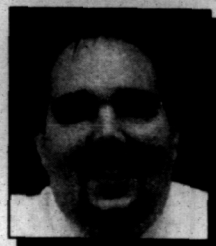
"THOSE THINGS THAT WERE GAIN TO ME IS WHAT GOT ME HERE!"



We would do well to heed the words of the Apostle Paul found in Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV), "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

The first part — being content — we can will ourselves to do. The second part — to have faith — is going to take some commitment. Are we up to it?

GUEST OPINION:



'Loose lips' mentality not the Gospel way

By Matt Miller
Southwestern Seminary

isn't growing. It seems that boldness is a rare quality.

It is that lack of boldness that sickens my very core. In Southeast Asia, I saw things that made me weep, things that made me hurt, and things that made me nauseous.

Greater than the pits of rotting bodies in the tropical sun, more saddening than the thousands of miles of destroyed coastline, and even more painful than the faces of orphans are the faces of the thousands who did survive only to delay their entry into hell for another day; they are those who have never heard the Gospel and those who are still not hearing the Gospel more than a month after this

tragedy. How can they be saved if they do not hear?

Yes, the area I was in is a Muslim culture. Yes, Christianity is frowned upon and yes, at times believers are persecuted, but the "loose lips sink ships" mentality doesn't sit well with me or my old navy captain of a grandfather.

The Kingdom of Heaven will never increase without deliberately, verbally, and boldly sharing the Gospel.

Being in a place "sharing the love of Christ" just by handing out water, rice, or strawberry yogurt is not enough to make an eternal difference. Nowhere in Scripture is simply being there enough. Even in instances where Christ was just meeting

a need, he never missed a chance to proclaim his deity. Simply saying, "Jesus loves you," is not enough.

Never would I counsel recklessness, bad manners, or being provocative but if the writer who counseled against "loose lips" is in the majority, and I fear he is, then we are far removed from the dangers stated above. We are more likely to be failing our Lord when He commanded us to "make disciples of all nations."

I understand the risk associated in sharing in a hostile land. I understand security and cultural sensitivity. I've been there. I also understand dying and going to hell. I've been on that path, too.

However, I'm grateful someone took the risk and shared the greatest thing they could with me: the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. I'm ever grateful that someone risked sinking their ship to save my drowning soul. Loose lips saved my ship. Hell is full of seaworthy vessels.

Miller is director of photography at Southwestern Seminary.

Review: 'Winn-Dixie' winner for families

By Phil Boatwright
Baptist Press

Who isn't a sucker for a good dog-and-his/her-sidekick story? Because of Winn-Dixie, which opened in theaters on February 18, is the latest winner in this tried-and-true genre.

Even USA Today topped its review with the headline, "'Winn-Dixie' is a winner," describing the film as "a sweet, family-friendly retelling of a touching and funny Newbery Award-winning children's book."

USA Today described the film as "close enough to the original work to please most fans, and it's sufficiently entertaining for those unfamiliar with Kate DiCamillo's story."

The storyline of Because of Winn-Dixie centers around a lonely 10-year-old girl, abandoned by her alcoholic mother and ignored by her grieving



Boatwright

father, who prays for a friend. Soon after, an energetic stray pooch scampers his way into her heart while she shops for macaroni and cheese at the local Winn-Dixie. As the two bond, she finds that they are having a positive effect on the friendless and disenfranchised in her small rural community,

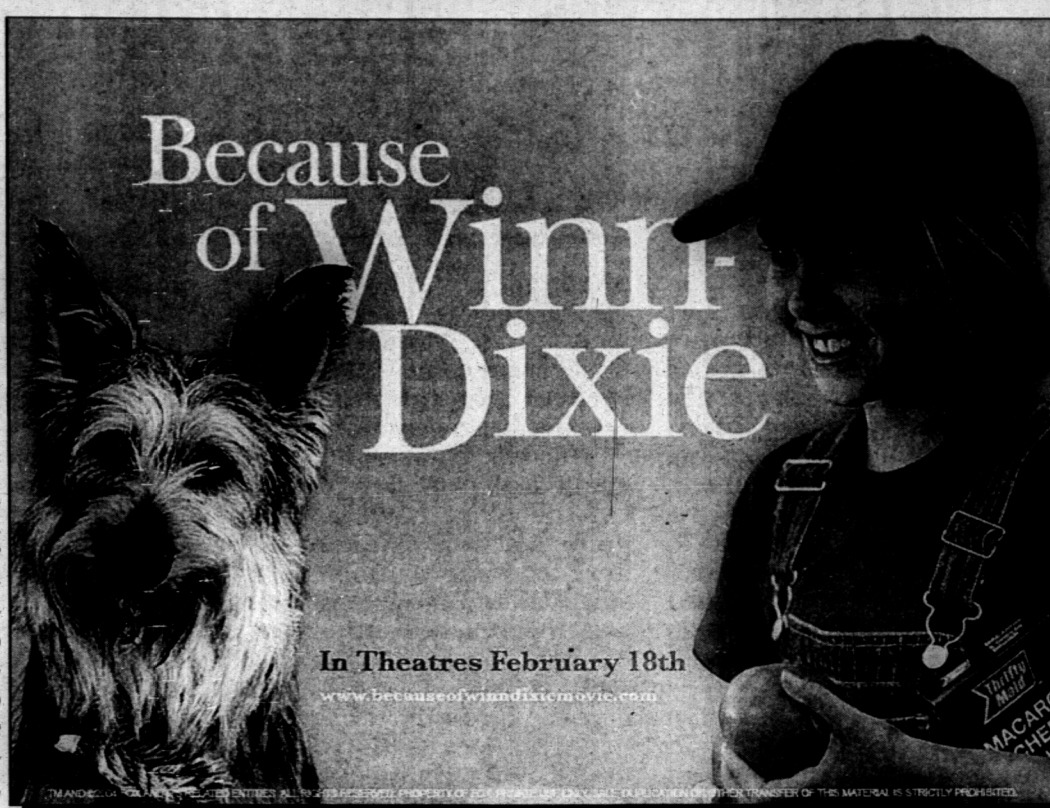
as well as her own troubled relationship with her father.

The film is the latest venture from Walden Media, a relatively unknown film company that has produced some significant fare — such as Holes, Around the World in 80 Days, and I Am David.

Walden Media's aim in those and other films is to entertain family audiences, while also helping to encourage kids to embrace the world of literature. What's more, its co-founder is a believer.

Micheal Flaherty (I didn't have the nerve to ask him why he inverts the ae in his given first name), along with one-time college friend Cary Granat (I kid you not), formed Walden Media five years ago with the purpose of making great films from celebrated literature.

"My partner, Cary Granat, had once been the president of Dimension Films, making mostly R-rated horror movies but he had a young daughter and he wanted to make something that she could enjoy, that he could bring his whole family to.



"I was doing things in the world of education and was trying to find ways to make learning more interesting to kids," Flaherty continued. "Together we formed a company that would produce good stories that didn't shy away from spiritual truths."

"We constructed a business plan to make films based on great historical subjects (The Question of God), IMAX films that would make science come alive (Aliens of the Deep) and feature films based on books kids were reading in school (The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe)," Flaherty said.

"We got laughed at by every venture capital office from New York to San Francisco and then finally we met Phil Anschutz, who understood what we were doing right away and did a lot to help develop our vision."

The direction of Walden Media is not taken lightly by the company's founders. "We want to be the next great trusted brand for families, particularly for teachers, libraries and parents," Flaherty said, "and we have to deliver on our mission to use the film and the book to make learning more exciting for kids."

Asked why he wanted to add to a movie genre already stuffed with classics like Lassie Come Home, Ladd A Dog, and My

THE BAPTIST Record

Dog Skip, Flaherty said there is always room for one more dog-lovers' movie: "I love the story because I'm a dog lover and I think it has a great message about how we are all broken and we should share each other's burden and each other's joy."

As for the studio's I Am David, which won festival awards and raves from reviewers but was missed by most filmgoers, Flaherty said it's coming out on DVD this spring. (Go to walden.com website for further details.)

The C.S. Lewis allegory The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe will be released in December. "The last two versions didn't really measure up to the power of the story," Flaherty said. "We didn't cut any corners. I think we succeeded in getting the best directing, writing, and special effects talents possible."

Boatwright is a film critic and editor of The Movie Reporter, on the Web at www.moviereporter.com.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Bill increases fines

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on February 16 to increase dramatically the fines for indecency on radio and television broadcasts, in a 389-38 vote on the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act. If it becomes law, the measure would:

- Increase the maximum fine from \$32,500 to \$500,000 per violation for radio and television stations.
- Up the fine penalty for an intentional violation by a performer or network from \$1,000 to \$500,000.
- Require licensee revocation hearing for a station after a third violation.
- Mandate the Federal Communications Commission act on indecency complaints within 180 days.

Supporters of the legislation believe increasing the fines will work to reduce television and radio programming considered indecent by FCC guidelines. Arguments from the small minority in opposition include charges the bill would be an act of government censorship. Defenders of the measure, however, said it provides the muscle needed hopefully to cause federal licensees to refrain from broadcasting, as the bill describes it, "obscene, indecent, or profane material." U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kansas), is sponsoring a Senate companion bill that contains some differences. His proposal would increase the maximum fine to \$325,000 for stations. Neither bill would directly affect cable or satellite programming. The FCC is able to regulate only broadcast radio and television. On TV, that includes such networks as ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX. Last year, both the House and Senate overwhelmingly approved bills increasing indecency fines, but differences could not be worked out, causing them to die when Congress adjourned. Pro-family organizations have long criticized the sexual content, plus obscene and profane language, on prime-time television. The Super Bowl's controversial halftime show last year, however, pushed the issue into the national spotlight and motivated Congress to act. FCC Chairman Michael Powell, whose actions sometimes disappointed pro-family advocates, recently announced his resignation from the panel. Opponents of broadcast indecency are urging President Bush to name someone who will consistently enforce the rules as his replacement.

Looking back

10 years ago

Baptisms related to foreign mission work worldwide total 302,132 in 1994 — the first time annual baptisms have topped 300,000, according to Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board.

20 years ago

Bobby Kilpatrick, head basketball coach at Memphis State University, tells members of Calvary Church, Tupelo, that although the university's regents prohibit him from sharing his faith with his players, his lifestyle can influence the young men.

50 years ago

\$10,000 of this year's Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions is allocated to be used toward the construction of the proposed Indian center to be located in Mississippi, according to Edwina Robinson, state WMU secretary.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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SGK ITRF SYF ITFW
NTQET SYF RANG AG
MAAK MYADGK; RDET SR
TFSY ITF NAYK, SGK YFE-
FQBF QI, SGK UYQGM
XAYIT XYDQI, RAJF ITQYI-
WXAPK, RAJF RQLIW, SGK
RAJF SG TDGKYFK.

JSYV XADY: INFCIW

Clue: J = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six:Forty-Four.

GREETERS

History will record that Sam Walton was a merchandising genius. Starting out with little or nothing, he took an idea and a whole lot of work and built the Wal-Mart empire. At the time of his pinnacle of success he was the richest man in America and possibly the world. I suppose most people looking at the success of Wal-Mart think that what he did was mainly buy huge volumes so that the price would be reduced and he would be able to pass on the savings to everyone else. That is in part true, but that is not what Sam Walton was all about. Actually, he was involved in the process of reaching people. To Sam Walton how you got people in the store, how you treated them and helped them while they were shopping, was vitally important.

One of the innovative things that Wal-Mart put in place was a "Greeter" whose sole mission was to welcome you to the store and from the very beginning make you feel good about being there. You may be there to pick up a specific item like a tooth brush or a power tool or you may just be meandering through the store looking at the thousands of items available. Either way, the better you feel about being there the more likely it is that you will be a productive and happy customer. While Wal-Mart, a monstrosity of an operation, gets a fair amount of criticism it must be recognized that the largest merchandising outlet in the world thinks it is



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

important to have a "Greeter" at the door to give a warm welcome and make sure that those who come to shop are brought into a positive, helpful, and happy environment.

The church could learn a great deal from Sam Walton. On the other hand in years gone by, Sam Walton may have learned from some folks' spiritual and biblical teaching and the practical application of those teachings. The great Sunday School leader and church growth expert of decades ago, Arthur Flake, use to deal with this aspect of church and Sunday School in his conferences. Before he got around to dealing with the principles of teaching and before he started encouraging and motivating people to go out, he recognized that there was something essential that must be in the experience or it would be empty and meaningless. This former businessman recognized that if the atmosphere is not right regardless of the product or the importance of the experience, all would be lost.

It is a proven fact that people will not continue to shop at a place where they are not

welcomed and they are mistreated. At times the mistreatment is simply being ignored. Now, the important thing is for us to express our welcome and friendliness before the "welcome" moment in the service. Occasionally, I will be at a church where I am completely unknown by anyone there, and I am amazed at how many people will not even speak as I walk from the parking lot down the sidewalk into the building. I have had people go out of their way not to speak and then in the service when everybody is suppose to greet, welcome, and hug they will track me down. It is far more effective to be congenial when it is not expected than it is to do so when it appears you are forced to be.

I am certainly aware that the Bible teaches, "A man who has friends must show himself friendly," and so I make a concerted effort to be as friendly as I know how to be in order to give people an opportunity to befriend me in return. Still I have found dozens of people who will not even speak and many who at best will simply nod. I want to think that many of them are actually like me.

They are just visiting and they do not know how to respond to folks around them. We can do better! We ought to do better and hopefully, by the grace of God we will do better.

Today make a self-appointment in your church or Sunday School, and become the "Go out of the way, put a smile on your face greeter" to everybody who comes remotely close to where you are. One person like that, one person like you can make a huge difference in a room or on your way into the church. You may say, "Well, that is just not my personality." Ask God to give you a new personality or at least to upgrade the one you have so that you will be a blessing to someone beyond just your own skin. Have you ever seen those vests that folks who work in Wal-Mart wear? On the back it says, "May I help you?" Have you ever walked up to one of them and said, "Yes, you certainly may. I need to find some item or another." When you tell them you need help the offer on their back is not always representative of their attitude. Maybe that helps us to understand how people may feel when they come to the loving, warm atmosphere of the church and find that it is not that way at certain times. I pray that the Lord will transform all of us into "Greeters," who will welcome people not only to church or to Sunday School but also into His eternal family.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

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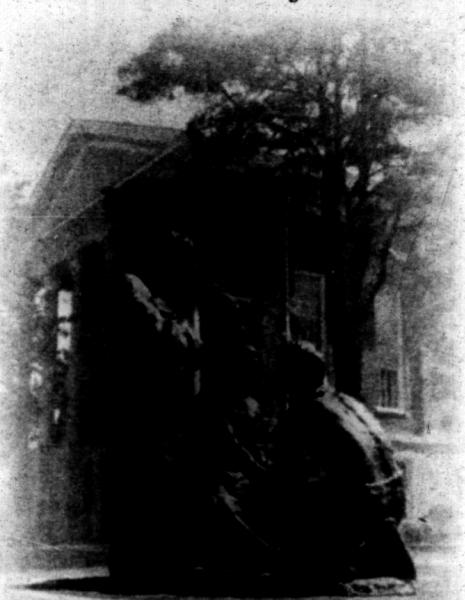


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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 13:35 NAS

February 24, 2005

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

WITNESSING



THROUGH MEDIA

MAY 6-7, 2005

PARK PLACE BAPTIST CHURCH, PEARL

WTM WORKSHOPS

- **"Nuts and Bolts" of Camera Operation** – Led by Don Warren and David Bunger
Participants will walk through the basic camera operations such as framing, functions and camera directions.
- **Getting Started on the Web** – Led by J.C. Howell
Internet beginners can see what you need to know about getting on line and publishing a church Web page.
- **How Did They Do That?**
(1 hour session for everyone) Examples will be shown. Share your samples ... bring on VHS format.
- **Creative Production** – Led by Don Warren and David Bunger
Creating spots, outreach videos, devotional thoughts, VBS promotion, budget presentations and others for the local church.
- **Sound Advice Basic** – Led by Trooper Hales
Participants will receive audio tips and production techniques for the sound operator (house and broadcast).
- **Sound Advice Advanced** – Led by Trooper Hales
This question and answer format workshop will go a step further in helping both broadcast and house audio operators with practical help.
- **Advanced Web Site Design** – Led by J.C. Howell
Participants who have a basic knowledge of Web site design and want to take your church Web page to the next level.
- **Non-Linear Editing for Weekly Church Broadcast** – Led by Lynn Bullock
If you are still using traditional tape based editing to edit your weekly worship service, this session will demonstrate an efficient solution for using today's low cost non-linear systems to simplify the process.
- **Projection Systems Forum** – Led by Ian Richardson
If you are interested in, familiar with, just bought or looking for ways to use your video projection system, this question and answer format workshop is for you.

Reservation Deadline is April 15, 2005 • Full refunds prior to April 15, 2005. No refund after that date. FOR MORE INFORMATION or REGISTRATION, contact Judy Chen, Communication Services, 601-292-3378 or 1-800-748-1651

YOUNG MUSICIANS CAMP

Gulfshore

JUNE 24-28

Guest Director: Ruth Lewis

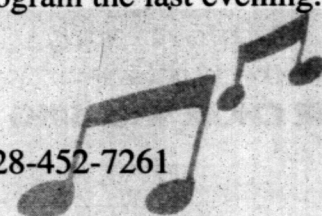
Music Assistant

North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Arizona

Both Gulfshore and Blue Mountain camps are for boys and girls who have finished the 4-6 grades by June 1, 2005. They do not have to be members of a choir. Most children love music and like to sing. They will learn the music at camp and present a program the last evening. Parents and guests are invited.

Cost is \$155

Register with Gulfshore Baptist Assembly: 228-452-7261



YOUNG MUSICIANS CAMP

Blue Mountain

JULY 25-29

Guest Director: Wayne Causey

Minister of Music

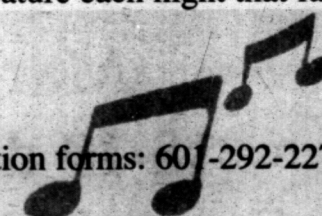
Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville



Each day both camps include two worship services, two rehearsals, two classes (one music activity and one spiritual) and afternoon electives such as crafts, outdoor splash games, handbells, art, swimming, drama and many more. There is also a fun feature each night that faculty and children can participate in.

Cost is \$112

Contact the Church Music Dept. for registration forms: 601-292-2271 or 1-800-748-1651



SENIOR ADULT SPRING RALLIES

- **TUESDAY, MARCH 8**
FBC, Long Beach
Speaker: Frank Gunn
Contact Betty – 228-864-2584

- **THURSDAY, MARCH 10**
Fairview BC, Columbus
Speaker: Charles Lowry
Contact Tommy – 662-328-2924

- **TUESDAY, MARCH 15**
FBC, Columbia
Speaker: Frank Pollard
Contact Archie – 601-736-2254

- **MONDAY, MARCH 28**
West Jackson Street BC, Tupelo
Contact Jim – 662-256-8778

- **TUESDAY, APRIL 5**
Poplar Springs, Meridian
Speaker: Henry Lyons, Alabama
Contact Buddy – 601-681-8668

- **TUESDAY, APRIL 12**
Emmanuel BC, Grenada
Contact Barry – 662-226-5316

- **THURSDAY, APRIL 14**
FBC, McComb
Contact Talmadge – 601-833-8111
Speaker: Tommy King, William Carey

For more info, contact Glenn Shows: Phone, 601-292-3373 or 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail, gshows@mbcb.org.



Schedule

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Festival Begins

Mississippi Baptist State Senior Adult Choir Festival

May 3, 2005
Country Woods BC
Byram

REGISTRATION FORM - Deadline April 22 2005 Senior Adult Choir Festival

Church _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Choir Name _____ Choir Director _____

No. Members Attending _____ x \$1 = _____

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

OUR CHOIR WILL SING THE FOLLOWING SELECTIONS FOR ADJUDICATION

1. Title _____

Publisher _____ Composer _____

2. Title _____

Publisher _____ Composer _____

Our Favorite Hymn is _____ ☐ Our choir will not sing for adjudication

There is a registration fee of \$1 per person. In order to complete registration, a check for the registration fee should be sent with the registration form to:

Senior Adult Choir Festival
Church Music Department
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205



Festival
Saturday
March 12

Parkway BC, Clinton



Clinician

Sherrie Upshaw

Organist/Music Associate
First Baptist Church
Shreveport, La.

For more information contact the
Church Music Department
601-292-3267 or 1-800-748-1651

IN HIS PRESENCE

First Annual Hispanic Women's Retreat Primer Retiro Anual de Mujeres Hispanas

"In Your presence is fullness of joy..." Psalm 16:11

"En tu presencia hay plenitud de gozo..." Salmo 16:11

March 18-19, 2005

18-19 de Marzo de 2005

Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko, Miss.

Bible study, testimonies, music, prayer, fellowship
Estudio Bíblico, testimonios, alabanzas, grupos de
oración, compañerismo

Cost: \$15 per person
Costo: \$15 por persona

Child Care Provided
Habrá cuidado de niños

Registration begins at 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 18.

Registación empieza a las 2:00 p.m. el Viernes 18 de Marzo

Deadline to register March 13 Último plazo para registrarse 13 de Marzo

REGISTRATION FORM FORMULARIO DE REGISTRACIÓN

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Persona Encargada: _____ Teléfono: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Dirección: _____ Ciudad: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Estado: _____ Código: _____ Correo electrónico: _____

On a separate sheet: Names of women attending with you: _____
En un papel aparte: Nombres de las mujeres que asisten con usted: _____

Names and ages of children attending: _____

Nombres y edades de los niños que asisten: _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Para más información
comuníquese con:
Mrs. Damaris Medina
Hna. Damaris Medina
601-267-5393
jmedina@netdoor.com

MAIL TO: ENVÍE A:
Central Hills Baptist Retreat
P.O. Box 698, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0698

Please make checks payable to:
Por favor haga los cheques a favor de:
Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Deadline to register March 13
Último plazo para registrarse 13 de Marzo

Hispanics

STATE MINISTRY ASSISTANTS CONFERENCE

April 4-5, 2005

Devoted to You

JAY SCRIBNER pastor of
FBC, Branson, Mo.



ONE WAY MINISTRIES
One Way Ministries
Mathiston, Miss.

Preregistration with the fee in advance is necessary. **Contact Kay McDonnell** for more information: 601-292-3305, 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.

Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop

March 22, 2005
8:30 a.m - 3 p.m.

Broadmoor Baptist Church
1531 Highland Colony Parkway
Madison, Mississippi

For more info call the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. at 601-292-3305 or 1-800-748-1651

GULFSHORE SEEKING SUMMER EMPLOYEES

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly is accepting applications for employment for the 2005 summer staff, according to Frank Simmons, Assembly Manager.

College age applicants who are interested are encouraged to consider this avenue of ministry and service. The assembly begins its summer program May 7, 2005, and continues until August 10, 2005. The Gulfshore schedule features Senior Adult, Single, Youth, Music, Family and Adult Leadership Conferences. It is hoped that 2005 attendance will be the largest ever for Gulfshore.

Available positions include food services, Red Cross trained lifeguards, housekeeping, registration and office, first aid, and grounds and maintenance.

The assembly provides an interesting program of activities for the staff; and they have the opportunity for service as well as personal spiritual growth and development. It provides a wonderful opportunity to meet people from various places in Mississippi and to develop meaningful and personal friendships with these people.

Interested college age students are encouraged to meet with Simmons February 23 through March 8 on various college campuses across Mississippi, where he will be interviewing prospective employees. The recruiting schedule is as follows:

Monday	(Feb. 28)	Itawamba Comm. College BSU Blue Mountain BSU Center	10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	(Mar. 1)	Northwest MS Comm. College BSU Ctr. Delta State University	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	(Mar. 2)	Mississippi State University	11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Thursday	(Mar. 3)	Northeast MS Community College BSU Ole Miss BSU Center	10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Monday	(Mar. 7)	Pearl River Community College BSU Jones Junior College BSU Center	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	(Mar. 8)	Hinds Comm. College BSU Center Co-Lin College BSU Center	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	(Mar. 9)	Meridian Community College BSU East Central Community College BSU	11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday	(Mar. 10)	WM Carey College BSU University of Southern MS BSU Center	10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Monday	(Mar. 14)	Mississippi College, BSU Center	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For additional information about an interview, contact Frank Simmons at Gulfshore, 228-452-7261 or e-mail fsimmons@mbcb.org or contact the BSU director on the college campus in your respective area of the state.

For a staff application and other information write to Summer Employment, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First St., Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299 or visit the Web site www.mbc.org.

Pray this day for...

February 25-March 10, 2005

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"A man's influence in the world can be gauged not by his eloquence, his zeal, his orthodoxy, or his energy, but by his prayers."

The Kneeling Christian by an Unknown Christian

For: (1) Christian Performing Arts Festival, Morrison Heights BC, Chasms 25th-26th (D&FM); (2) Mission Bank, associational church evangelism special; (3) request prayer that the Central Convention associations will be successful in their evangelism and church planting strategy to win Oklahoma to Christ.

For: (1) State Keyboard Festival, Woodland Hills BC, Jackson, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (CM); (2) MC workers Jim and Sherry Neal ask for your continued prayers that God would open the doors for Bible studies in a new apartment complex called Las Tones de San Borja, Peru.

Pray for the series of church-planting clinics that missionary Ron Rogers began last month in the interior of the state of Sao Paulo, near Sao Paulo city metropolitan area. Ask God to use participants to begin churches not only in the cities where they live, but also in the many communities that have no Baptist work.

Continue to pray for believers in Puerto Williams, Chile, as they reach out to those who made decisions during the recent evangelistic Vacation Bible School and Bible studies directed by a volunteer team from Alabama.

For: Michael D. Flannery, Buffalo, N.Y., is a church planter in New York, Elliott Sneed who is starting a new church in South Lancaster, N.Y., for a church planting missionary on staff at the Frontier Association, and for church planters in Springville and Batavia, N.Y.

New missionaries Bryan and Christy Thompson write: "Please pray for wisdom as we begin our ministry here in Montevideo, Uruguay. The people are mostly agnostic. Even with a downturn in the economy, they have a disinterest in any organized religion. Pray for us and fellow missionaries Charles and Karen Clark as we seek to share the Good News here."

For: (1) AMD Program Interpretation Meeting, Hilton Hotel, Jackson, 10:30 a.m., 3rd-noon, 4th (MS); (2) Metro Assoc. Fall and Banquet, Broadmoor BC, 3:00 and 5:30 p.m.; (3) Please pray for President Luiz Inacio "Lula" Da Silva of Brazil (eastern South America).

For: (1) State Youth Music Festival, McLaughlin Heights BC, Pearl, 6:30 p.m., 4th-1 p.m., 5th (CM); (2) Mississippi Actives Convention, Mississippi College, Clinton, 4th-6th (WMU); (3) Please pray today for President Festus Mogae of Botswana (southern Africa).

For: (1) Christian Education Clinic, FBC, Jackson (D&FM); (2) Pray for the on going church-planter trainings and mentor groups in the local congregations, Northwest Mexico City. Pray that they will be sources of encouragement, motivation and just-in-time training, providing great support groups to produce more and more laborers for the harvest.

For: (1) North American Missions Emphasis 6th-13th (WMU Emphasis); (2) Pray that the Lord will grant wisdom to the church starters who work among the Quichua of Ecuador. Pray that the Lord will give them strength to carry out their tasks.

Please lift up university students of Indonesia whose hometowns were hit tragically by the tsunamis. A number of them have yet to return for the new semester. Word from the region hardest hit is that they were busy cleaning out a church and were able to have their first service two weeks after the devastation. Lift up these believers as they cling to their hope in Christ.

The Deaf church in one major city of Colombia has been working in five areas where they have established five missions. Pray for the church during a time of change. The church is moving to a new location. Pray for all involved in this process to seek God first in all the decisions being made.

For: (1) Baptist Building STAFF AT HOME DAYS, 9th-11th; (2) Stuart Cundiff, Columbus, Ind., is director of missions of the South Central Association. Jan, his wife, is the literacy consultant for the state and language missions director for the association. Pray for God to call a person to plant a church among Japanese in Bartholomew County.

Pray for the small group of Tukolor and Fulbe believers in a Senegalese town. Pray for them as they meet regularly for worship and fellowship. Pray for M, the Fulbe believer who travels a long distance to disciple and encourage them. Pray that they will have the courage to share their faith with family and friends. The sharing of their faith could lead to persecution.

ANNUAL MISSIONS CELEBRATION 2005

"MISSISSIPPI CHRIST FOLLOWERS"

APRIL 8-9, 2005 • FALGOUT, MS

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

8 a.m.-noon Ministry Projects*
3:30-4:30 p.m. Prayer & Share Celebration
5-6:15 Missions Banquet
6:30 Worship Celebration & Acts 1:8
Commissioning Service
Featuring: Dramatist: Laurita Miller

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

7:30 a.m. Former Executive Board Breakfast
8:45-10 Conferences
10:15 Worship Celebration & Business Session
Featuring: Mississippi Choctaw Women's Choir
1:00 p.m. Adjourn

For information on any of the items in this ad, contact the WMU at 601-292-3319 or 1-800-748-1651.



•AMC 2005 Ministry Projects

One Person Giving One Day = One Changed Life
PrayerWalking, Ministry to the Military, New Church Starts, Acts of Kindness Ministry, Minor Repairs/Painting, Community Outreach

During AMC 2005, you will have the opportunity to participate in ministry projects all across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Ministry Projects will be planned for Friday, April 8, from 8:00 a.m.-noon. There is no cost, but registration is required.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Registration 12-1 p.m.

Tee Time 1 p.m.

Dogwood Hills Golf Course

Cost: \$30, includes cart and green fee

Proceeds will support the Gulf Coast

Baptist Association Mobile Home Ministry



BUS TOUR - Ride the WMU bus to and from the Mission Celebration! It will depart from Garaywa, make a stop in Hattiesburg to pick up folks, and on to the conference.

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Bonita Wilson, an International Mission Board missionary to the Pacific Rim, spoke with several potential missions volunteers at **First Church, Richland**, Jan. 27. The Pacific Rim includes 11 regions, including Japan, Korea, and Australia. Wilson briefed the group on tsunami recovery efforts in the region and shared opportunities for service. For more information, contact Ken Rhodes, director, Missions Mobilization Dept., Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at (601) 292-3398, or toll-free outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651, ext. 239. E-mail krhodes@mbcb.org.

On January 30, Randy Turner, pastor of **First Church, Laurel**, and Xavier Joshua signed a Covenant Agreement that First Church, Laurel, will be the sponsoring church for the First Metropolitan Mission, an African-American Southern Baptist work with Joshua as the Mission's pastor.

Jim Phillips, pastor of North Greenwood Church was guest speaker for the 13th annual wild game banquet at First



Bonita Wilson, IMB

Church, Laurel, on Feb. 8. Phillips is also a professional bass fisherman and very active in Fishers of Men Ministries. Visit his web site at www.fishing-world.com/Pro-JimPhillips.

Jack Hollingsworth was recently licensed to preach the gospel at **Utica Church, Utica**. He is currently serving as interim

music minister at Calvary Church, Vicksburg. Shown are Pastor Ben James and Jack Hollingsworth.

The **Clarke-Venable Church**, Awana Sparks' (grade K-2) goal for Lottie Moon was \$100. The group raised \$348. Leaders had pledged to match the total amount raised, which has brought the contribution to approximately \$700.

Ecu Church, recently honored Louise Mounce for her many years of service on January 30. She was presented with an engraved silver tray, a love offering and a meal was enjoyed in her honor. Shown below with Mounce is her pastor Barry Littlefield.

East End Church, Columbus, presently meeting at Heritage Academy, will have a groundbreaking service on Feb. 27 at noon located at the new campus site on Hwy 50 in north Columbus.

Mountain Creek Church, Florence, recently celebrated a groundbreaking for their new family life center. The new building will add 6,400 sq. ft. of education and fellowship space.

First Church, Clinton, cordially invites you to meet their

new pastor, John Compton and his wife Teresa. A reception will be held in their honor on February 27, 2-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

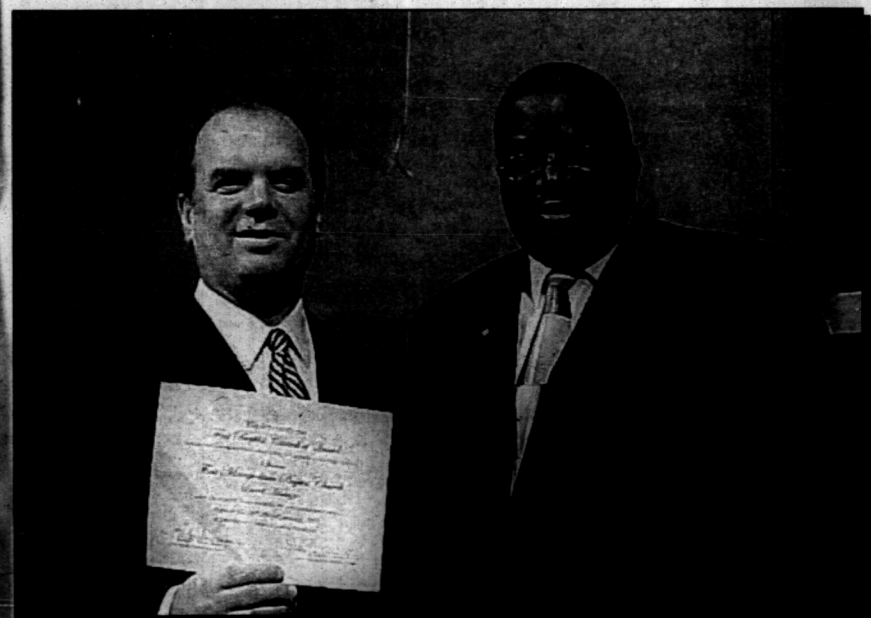
Camp Creek Church, Guntown, will host a lay renewal weekend March 4-6. For more information, call (662) 869-5474.



Awana Sparks (Grade K-2), Clark-Venable Church



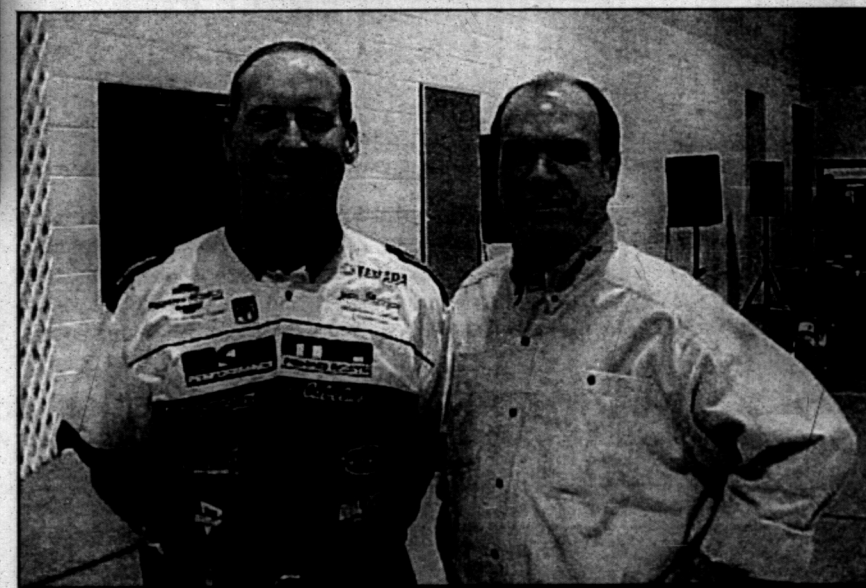
James and Hollingsworth



Turner and Joshua



Mounce and Littlefield, Ecu



Jim Phillips and Randy Turner



Groundbreaking Ceremony, Mtn Creek Church, Florence

Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity is a contract in which you exchange a gift of cash or stocks for a guaranteed fixed income each year for life. This is an extraordinary way to make a gift, increase your income AND reduce your tax bill. Giving a gift annuity offers you several advantages. You receive income for life with payout rates for one or two people. A large part of your transfer is a deductible charitable gift. Tax-free income is another bonus of the gift annuity. Part of your annual payments are tax-free. You minimize your capital gains taxes when you give a gift annuity. You will know that you are making a gift of lasting impact to further God's work.

In addition, you are able to choose how frequently payments will be made. You can select one person or two-person annuities and make your gift with either cash or stocks. Cash gifts allow the most tax-free income while gifts of securities (stocks) allow you to reduce capital gains taxes.

At the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, we provide information as well as church seminars on a wide range of programs and financial services. Call us at (601) 292-3210.

MBF

THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

COLLEGE NEWS



Clay, Whittington, and Gunn

The Mississippi Baptist Hospital/Gilfoy School of Nursing Alumni recently awarded scholarships to Tabitha Clay of Brandon, MC Advanced Standing; Jeannie Gunn of Jackson, UMC Doctoral Candidate; Maurice Carter of Brandon, USM Masters; Thomas Griffith, Jr. of Grenada, Holmes CC ADN; Amanda Paige Whittington of Mize, MC Baccalaureate; and Robert Summers of Ridgeland, Hinds CC ADN. Shown are Clay, Whittington, and Gunn.

Thirty-five students from 11 Mississippi campuses spent their Christmas holiday in China, teaching indigenous peo-

ple the meaning of Christmas, using drama, prayerwalking, and caroling.

Blue Mountain College (BMC) is hosting its Fourth Annual Financial Aid Fair Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a free service open to all graduating seniors interested in attending college.

Students do not have to be attending BMC to benefit from this free service. For more information, call (662) 685-4771, ext. 141.

Stan Buckley, pastor, First Church, Jackson, and an attorney, presented a case for the validity of Christianity at the Feb. 17 meeting of the Mississippi College School of Law's Christian Legal Society.

The Christian Legal Society, Mississippi College School of Law, will host the spring luncheon Mar. 4, 11:30 a.m., at First Church, Jackson. Guest speaker is U.S. District Court Judge Keith Starrett. Cost is \$10; call (601) 925-7105 for information.

STAFF CHANGES

Stepping Stone Church, Port Gibson, has called Mark Dearman as pastor.

Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn Association, has called David George to be their associate pastor.



George

REVIVALS

First Church, McLaurin, will host a revival March 6-9 with guest speaker Dr. John Temple from Madison and music led by John Hubbell. Services: Sun., 11:00 a.m., lunch to follow with afternoon song service; Mon.-Wed., 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Shirley Headley at (601) 583-9212.

Centerville Church, Tylertown, will host a revival March 6-9 with evangelist Don Taylor and music led by Adrian Wood. Services: Sun., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m. Nursery will be available. For more information contact Juanita Firmin at (601) 684-9920.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH of Bryant, Arkansas, is prayerfully seeking God's will for a full-time pastor to lead our congregation. We will be accepting resumes until March 31, 2005. Please send resumes to pastor search committee, 604 S Reynolds Road, Bryant, AR 72022.

AFFORDABLE, BIBLICAL HEALTHCARE for Christians. Try MediShare and save thousands of dollars each year. Choose your own doctors, call (800) 647-2562 for free information.

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE for the self employed. Call (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Insurance, www.christianers-ins.com.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS, www.gulfshorescondos.com. All size units available. Spring special, 2 night weekend, \$160, 4 week nights \$250. Efficiency unit (2 adults 2 kids). Good thru 5/25, (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743.

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S MINISTER POSITION. Able to develop/manage preschool and children's ministries. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 21 First Street SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548, c/o preschool/children search committee.

FOR SALE: SCHULMERICH HANDBELLS, like new, rarely used, \$7,000. Contact DaRon Maughon at Church of the Highlands, Ridgeland, Miss., (601) 605-0040.

FOR SALE: 30 PADDED (SEAT AND BACK) PEWS. Fifteen feet long, First Baptist Church, Byram, Miss. Call Carl Prewitt at (601) 372-3156.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, MISS. Christian owned home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal roofs, patio covers, screen/glass rooms. (601) 992-2092 or (800) 453-2994. Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

GATLINBURG GETAWAY: 2 BR/2 bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, \$65/night. Call for information at (251) 666-2175, cell phone (251) 689-9982 or pdiw@worldnet.att.net.

HEALTH INSURANCE TOO EXPENSIVE? Call toll-free today (877) 232-0686. We can Help! Major Medical Hospital & surgical plan. Doctors office visits, prescription drugs, life, dental, medicare supplement, low rates. Have current Health problems? We can Help! E. F. Hutton Insurance.

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT: plan "F" or "G", new lower rates! E. F. Hutton Insurance, toll-free 877-232-0686.

BRANSON, MISSOURI CONDO, street level, 2 BR, 2 bath, completely furnished with all the extras. Sleeps 6, no smoking or no pets. Please call after 4:30 pm week days. January, February, March specials for 2005, 662-746-6702.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE at 3.9 cents/minute (24/7), no monthly service charge. Toll free (866)-587-8346 or www.covenantphoneservice.com.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

PEWS FOR SALE: Colonial style church pews with upholstered seats, 37 years old. Fair condition, \$150.00 each, one at 9', six at 11'9", six at 14'8", two at 19'10" and two at 22' and seventeen at 21'4". Call First Baptist Church of Purvis at (601) 794-8551 for details.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

FULL-TIME WORSHIP PASTOR needed. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, attn: Dan Glenn, 100 N. Hickory St., Vidalia, LA 71373. Or email worship@bvidalia.com.

The Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum: Exploring the Tensions of Faith and Culture

March 11-12, 2005
\$20 Registration
\$10 Ministerial discount

The Resurrection

Historical Event or Hermeneutical Invention?
A dialogue between John Dominic Crossan and N. T. Wright

The Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum: Exploring the Tensions of Faith and Culture, will be held on the NOBTS campus each year. This pilot program is designed to provide a forum in which a well-known evangelical and a non-evangelical scholar discuss critical issues in philosophy, science, religion, and/or culture from their differing perspectives. Response papers on the resurrection by William Lane Craig, Gary Habermas, R. Douglas Geivett, Craig Evans, Ted Peters, and Chuck Quarles.

For conference information and registration: www.greer-heard.com
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126, www.nobts.edu

MS POSITIONS

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: First Baptist Church, Ridgeland is looking for a part-time financial secretary. Approximately 20 hours a week. Computer skills and financial training helpful. Resumes may be sent to First Baptist Church Ridgeland, 302 W. Jackson Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

MINISTER OF MUSIC: First Baptist Church, Ridgeland is looking for a full-time minister of music. Education and experience preferred. Interested applicants may send their resumes to First Baptist Church Ridgeland, 302 W. Jackson Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

LEMOYNE BLVD. BAPTIST CHURCH in D'Iberville, Miss., is currently seeking a bi-vocational part-time minister of music. LeMoyné Baptist is a growing church that

enjoys both traditional and contemporary music. Please send resumes to personnel committee, LeMoyné Blvd. Baptist Church, 15005 LeMoyné Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39532. Or fax (228) 392-3352 or email lemoynebaptistchurch@juno.com, or call (228) 392-3241.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER: Pelahatchie Baptist Church is seeking a mature, energetic person to lead our youth to maturity and ministry. Mail resume to Pelahatchie Baptist Church, attn: search committee, P.O. Box 355, Pelahatchie, MS 39145.

CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH, COLUMBUS, MISS., is prayerfully considering applications for the position of part-time youth director. Please submit resumes to R. Peal, 1332 Cal-Steens Road, Steens, MS

39766 or call (662) 574-0617.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION. Please mail resumes to Slayden Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 2534 Hwy 72, Lamar, MS 38642. Or email to slaydenchurch@bellsouth.net. For more information call (662) 252-4559.

MINISTER OF MUSIC/STUDENT WORKER. Self motivated, music Bachelor's degree. Young or young at heart. We have a blended service. Power point, keyboard, sax, already used. Congregation in multipurpose worship center. Beginning salary \$25-30,000. Actual youth numbers is small, potential is enormous. Contact pastor, Dr. W. "Frank" Lescallette, Trinity Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Miss., at (601) 636-8121.

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Major hospital & surgical plan, low rates! Helps pay benefits for hospital room, intensive care, surgery. Optional plan offers doctor's office visits, prescription drugs, dental. **E.F. Hutton Insurance**, P.O. Box 5127, Brandon, MS 39047, 877-232-0686.

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Don't miss your chance to register for this exciting information-packed presentation.
www.BuildingGodsWay.com

March 23, 2005
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Hampton Inn and Suites
320 Greymont Avenue
Jackson, MS 39202

March 24, 2005
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Courtyard Marriott
1320 North Gloster Street
Tupelo, MS 38804

Register today by calling or visiting the BGW website. • Sponsored by Griffin Classic Builders Inc., a strategic alliance partner with Daniel Cook and Associates.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Can God Fix This?

Hosea 14: 1-9

By Frances C. Graham

What is your true relationship with your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? Do you truly love Him or have you left your first love?

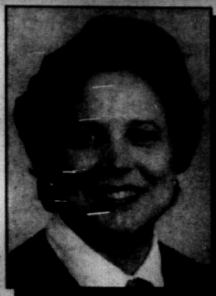
Hosea calls out to his people, "O Israel, return to God." (v.1) "Return" is the term used here for true repentance, which means going back to God, acknowledging sin, being sorry for sin and being restored from sin. Israel had been faithless but Hosea still saw hope for her if she would only turn from her sinful ways.

Hosea tells Israel to take words and ask for forgiveness in praying "Take away all iniquity" and "receive us graciously." (v.2) One should view this as a confession of sin along with praise and thanksgiving which are offered as sacrifice by the

grateful worshiper.

Now as Israel often tried to do, they wanted to look to a foreign power for help. Assyria (called Asshur in the KJV) could not save them nor could Egypt, the source of war horses. Israel considered turning to the work of their hands, the idols, for help. Hosea reminded Israel that they were exposed to danger from all the foreign powers and idols. He recounted only God could provide the mercy necessary for salvation. (v.3)

When God's people turn from their wicked ways and call upon Him, He responds by "healing their apostasy" (v.4). God will change their hearts and rid them of the immorality that brought their ruin. The love that God demonstrates is motivated by His own grace



Graham

rather than by any merit. God freely gives His love as a gift without any hindrances. The anger of the Lord is averted when true repentance is expressed by the sinner.

Verses 5-8 depict the blessings that God will shower upon Israel.

Israel will flourish with vegetation both in beauty and fruitfulness. The lily symbolizes the beauty and purity of Israel while the "roots of Lebanon" implies stability and permanence.

The "branches shall spread" symbolize the tender branches and saplings which spring from the root after Israel's vine is severed. Hosea indicates that the result will be the sprouting of many fresh plants. He emphasizes, as does Jeremiah (Jer. 11:16), that Israel will be bright and fruitful as the olive tree which was seen as a staple in the economy of the ancient East.

Israel (Ephraim) has finally learned her lesson and is ready to renounce idolatry (v.8). As a result

of God's love for Israel, they would bring forth God's fruit as is referenced in John 15:1-11.

God's redeeming love can save all who call upon Him repenting of their sins. He can overlook all the sins committed by Hosea, his wayward wife, and even the nation of Israel when they repent and turn from their wicked ways to follow Him.

God can redeem all of us through the love and joy of the Savior. God will be the final victor. This does not mean that God will save all people regardless of their sins, but He will save all people who choose to follow Him. It may seem that sin rules the world but rest assured that God rules the universe and He always will. God's true redemptive power is seen in the cross (Rom. 5:6-8) and the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:55-57).

Let's look at our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. One's active service and understanding of the Word is important but our love for God must be the overriding factor. If we, as fellow Christians, turn our

back on God, the One who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins, then we are committing the greatest sin of all.

The church of Ephesus (Rev. 2:2-4) was told their perseverance and labors for His name's sake were recognized but they had left their first love. Refer also to the writings to the church at Laodicea (Rev. 3:15-16), where God notes He is aware of their works but they are neither hot nor cold but a sickening lukewarm.

Do either of these descriptions fit your situation? Have you left your first love? Is your love for your Lord and Savior what it should be? Or is there a need for you refocus your heart and in turn your love for Jesus. God is waiting to fix our hearts when we are willing to "return" to Him as Hosea pleaded for his people to do. At that point, we can rekindle our first love and demonstrate God's love in our lives.

Graham is a member of Adaton Church, Starkville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Jesus Lives Forever

Luke 24:22-36, 50-53

By Neil Gant

Teams often pull victory from the jaws of defeat. Sometimes they pull defeat from the jaws of victory. The followers of Jesus sensed only defeat and tragedy after His death. They lived those days He was in the tomb in hopelessness and confusion. Until they saw Him alive. The tragedy turned into triumph.

SEEK ANSWERS, LUKE 24:22-24

The followers of Jesus spent three days in fear, darkness, and grief. They were sad because of the horror of the cross and death of the Lord Jesus. They were no doubt experiencing a deep sense of loss and heartache. Two of those disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a town about seven miles NW of the city. Their conversation concerned the events of the past few days.

While they were involved in this conversation, Jesus drew near and joined them. They did not know who He was, because of divine and supernatural intervention. He asked them about their conversation and their sadness. Jesus did not ask because he lacked information. He asked so that He could open the door to explain what these men needed to know. Cleopas asked this un-known intruder if He was the only stranger (visitor) in Jerusalem and unaware of the events of the past few days. Jesus gave Cleopas the opportunity to unload his heart — What things? Notice what Cleopas says: First, he described the person in question — Jesus of Nazareth. Not just any Jesus, but a particular man. Cleopas thought this stranger was completely unin-



Gant

formed. Second, he described the activity of this Jesus — a prophet mighty in deed and word. How accurate they were in this picture of the Lord Jesus. Third, they pointed out how this person met His end — the chief priests and rulers delivered Him to be con-

demned to death and crucified Him. Fourth, this man expressed his hope in Jesus. We were hoping He was going to redeem Israel. We were hoping He would deliver Israel from both spiritual and political woes.

This is the third day since that happened. Some of the women went to the tomb and amazed us with their story of the empty tomb and the angels who said He was alive. Certain (Peter and John) found the tomb as the women said, but did not see Him (they had not heard about His appearance to Mary Magdalene). They needed answers and were about to get them from the Lord Himself.

EXAMINE EVIDENCE, LUKE 24:25-29

Jesus preached them a sermon. He used as His text the entire Old Testament. He said they were foolish and slow because they did not believe the words of the prophets. He expounded the Scriptures and showed them that the entire Old Testament in some form pointed to His ministry and work. He showed them the necessity of His suffering and death. He told them that He would ascend into glory. They had not paid attention to the truth found in the words of the Scriptures. What a lesson they learned that evening! The very Author of Scripture explained the truth of Scripture to them. The Word of God gives us the hard evidence of the purpose of His coming and the certainty of His resurrection. Let us trust His Word.

CONSIDER TESTIMONIES, LUKE 24:30-36

The Lord stayed and broke bread with the two disciples. Their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. He vanished from their sight. Immediately they

noted how His sermon had touched them as they walked together. No one ever spoke like the Lord Jesus. He had opened the Scriptures to them. They left and found the eleven. Their message was plain and clear, "The Lord is risen." Then they told the story. As they were talking, Jesus Himself appeared in their midst. Eyewitness testimony in the New Testament gives powerful evidence of the certainty of His resurrection.

RESPOND IN WORSHIP, LUKE 24:50-53

Only one response is adequate with regard to the Risen Lord Jesus. We are to worship Him. The focus of our church gatherings is to worship Him. The focus of our private prayer time is to worship Him. He is to be the center of our lives. He is the risen and reigning King. He changed the lives of the early disciples and ours as well. "Come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

Gant is pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Gore Springs.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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**YOU CAN RESPOND
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Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance. •

SBC registration open

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Registration is now open for families who wish to enroll their children in the preschool childcare, the children's conference or the youth Centrifuge June 19-22 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn. For all information regarding registration, visit www.sbc.net and click on "2005 SBC Annual Meeting, then Children/Students."

Registration information may also be obtained by writing to SBC Childcare, Bellevue Baptist Church, 7400 Hwy 70S, Nashville, TN 37221.

To assure your child is registered, applications and fees must be submitted promptly. Once the completed forms and registration fee for each child are received, a family ID number will be assigned and a confirmation packet with a family confirmation card, parent handbook, security information and procedures for check-in and check-out will be sent.

The postmark deadline for preschool childcare registration is May 20. Parents desiring to register their children after May 20 may print the required information and bring it to the convention, where they will be registered on-site on a space-available basis.

The SBC children's conference, meanwhile, will be led by the staff and team from Children's Conferences International from Indianapolis, who perform skits, object lessons, stories, songs, crafts, games, juggling and music.

To register, visit www.sbc.net or www.childrensconferences.com and click on Nashville.

Also at the convention this year, students in grades seven through 12 are invited to be part of a Centrifuge-style camp sponsored by Fuge Life-Changing Camps. Centrifuge has provided quality camp experiences for SBC churches since 1979. The theme of the SBC Centrifuge, which begins Monday evening, June 20, is "Honor," focusing on how teens can honor God with their relationships. The Bible study sessions will focus on the life of David, and his relationships with King Saul, Jonathan and Bathsheba. Students will be in groups according to grade, with the breakdown being grades seven through nine and grades 10-12.

Registration may be handled online at www.lifeway.com/fuge/youth/sbc.asp, by clicking on "register online," or by calling 1-877-CAMP123. E-mail inquiries can be sent to fuge@lifeway.com.

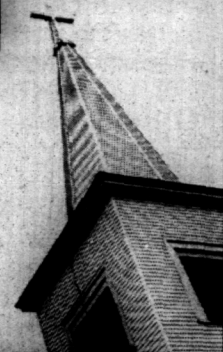
"Our vision is to facilitate biblically based conferences for every age group for our children and teens during the annual meeting," said Jack Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

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Shawn Lovejoy, Lead Pastor/Planter of Mountain Lake Church, Cumming, GA
In 5 years, from 12 in a cafeteria to 1,200 in five weekend services

David Putman, Executive Pastor, Mountain Lake Church, Former leader in NAMB's Church Planting Team... began as a church planter in the mid-80's

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APRIL 21-22, 2005

\$25 covers the cost of the conference and a Thursday evening seafood buffet.
Lodging & other meals are extra. For more information contact:

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